

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
Washington, D.C. 20380

MAG 24	
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MCO 5360.69	
COM:wjc	
4 Nov 93	

MARINE CORPS ORDER 5360.69

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: SOP FOR DEATH, DECEASEMENT, AND/OR DYING

1. Purpose. To set forth and reaffirm Marine Corps Policy in regards to unauthorized dying by enlisted personnel and junior commissioned officers with complete disregard for the proper procedures pertaining thereto.

2. Background

a. It has been brought to the attention of this headquarters that personnel described in paragraph one (1) are dying without proper authority and the consent of their superior officers. In addition to being definitely unauthorized, this practice is critical to the efficient operation of the United States Marine Corps and the completion of its assigned mission, and therefore must be discontinued immediately.

b. The manpower shortage is still acute in this theater of operations and any man who dies without first obtaining permission by following the proper channels in the chain of command commits a serious offense and is subject to appropriate disciplinary action under the existing provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

3. Action

a. Under no circumstances will a man be permitted to die on government time, and the following movements for death, deceasement, and/or dying shall be considered standard operating procedure.

(1) On receipt of the command, DIE victims will die in cadence as follows:

(a) The victim will stagger a full 30 inch pace, followed by a full 20 inch pace, at the same time half closing the eyelids. The eyes will automatically assume a fixed position.

(b) The victim will then sink slowly in a military manner to his knees, counting cadence to himself, fall on his

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face, arms out-stretched and thumbs at a 45 degree angle to the ears with fingers extended and separated.

(c) The toes will be drawn together sharply.

(d) The last breath will be drawn as follows:

1 Inhale two (2) liters of oxygen Navy weight.

2 Make one (1) low mean growl, followed by a sharp gasp.

\*NOTE: The death rattle will not be used, except for ceremonial dying or formal parades, and this, only at the authorization of a Major General or above.

(2) Before dying, a map FH Form 3212, presently unattainable at this time, will be made. Route to heaven will be drawn from the closet S-3 office, clearly marked with the victims name, rank, service number, and expected date of death. Special Services gear will be checked back in at this time.

(3) The route of travel will be strictly adhered to. Detours for the purposes of liquid refreshment will be punishable by lengthily confinement in the subterranean area of this command. Rations will be drawn from S-4, to include angel food cake (not an item of standard issue) or devils food cake (presently in short supply), depending upon the destination of the victim.

(4) No victim will make the trip twice, and all personnel taking this scenic trip will draw hazardous duty pay and sidearms. Officers hazardous duty pay will be in the amount of \$100.00, enlisted personnel will draw \$5.75. Sidearms will consist of one (1) fork, pitch and one (1) M1A flame thrower attachment for same.

(5) Above items will be requisitioned on DD Form 1050, in six (6) copies. Please note that DD Form 1050 is now obsolete and will no longer be honored. It has been replaced by DD Form 1360 which hasn't been put into distribution at this time.

(6) On arrival at destination, victim will report to pearly gate transient area number 2 for angelification and sanctification or subsequent reassignment. Depending upon classification, the following equipment will be drawn.

(a) Upper strata personnel: Wings: (1) pair - folding type - white, harp with strings - gold, and cloud - fleecy or cummuls - white.

(b) Subterranean personnel: Horns - pointed - forehead mounted, fork - pitch with sharp file tail - pointed.

(7) Equipment will be shined, dusted, and a weekly PM held. Clouds will be checked for condensation. Halo will be worn one (1) inch above the right eyebrow. Pitchforks will be fireproofed and carried at port arms until arrival at the lower level.

(8) All personnel will be governed by Military Law while awaiting reassignment. Personnel scheduled for subterranean levels will be placed in a voluntary confinement status (HACK) pending their time of departure for their new duty station.

4. Reserve Applicability. The provisions of this order are not applicable to the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve.

M. A. RINE  
Chief of Future Relations

DISTRIBUTION: A